



Freegrounds Infant School

School Prospectus



Dear Parents and Carers,

If your family is joining us for the first time, we welcome you to our school community and look forward to a happy and successful partnership with you over the coming years. If you already have a child here, we are pleased to renew our links with you and welcome your child into our school.

Having confidence in a school comes from knowing and understanding what is happening within it. The aim of this school brochure is to provide you with some useful information and tell you what is so special about Freegrounds Infant School.

Freegrounds Infant School is a three form entry Infant School situated in the village of Hedge End, on the outskirts of Southampton.

The original school building was built in 1969. Two further classrooms and a new Reception area were added in 2008, to cater for the growing demand in places which has increased over the years as the area has expanded.

Freegrounds Infant School is a fun, vibrant place to be, where children are nurtured and encouraged to achieve their best. We are proud of their achievements and respect their individuality. We strive to work in partnership with parents to equip our children with the skills and aptitudes they need to become resilient, independent, creative thinkers and learners of the future.

Freegrounds infant School holds the Inclusion Quality Mark a Centre of Excellence for Inclusion and is a Unicef Rights Respecting School at Silver level. We feel proud that our work with children, families and the wider community, building strong partnerships and providing a highly personalised approach to learning is recognised as a beacon of successful practice. We are continually striving for academic excellence and our work in other areas of the Curriculum has also been recognised. The school has been awarded the Association for Physical Education Quality Mark with Distinction, the Arts Mark and the Lunchtime Mark.

At Freegrounds Infant school we aim to provide a safe and friendly environment where children can experience a rich and varied education. We aim to help children grow in confidence by celebrating their achievements and develop independence in thought and action that will support them throughout their adult lives. We hope to give children an insight into the world in which they are growing up and the skills, knowledge and attributes they will need to pursue their potential.

Freegrounds Infant School is an exciting place to be part of, we hope that you and your child will enjoy your time with us.

If you have any questions about your child's education, please feel free to come and talk to us at school and we will do our best to help you.

Ms N Riches
Headteacher

Mrs G Wright
Chair of Governors





Admission of Pupils

Freegrounds Infant School follows Hampshire County Council's policy for admissions. A copy of this policy is enclosed at the back of this prospectus and can be found on our website.

We take pupils into the Early Years Foundation Stage from over 22 pre-school settings and endeavour to make contact with each of these prior to the children starting school. Our induction programme includes inviting the children to fun sessions during the summer term. Several of the local pre-schools also arrange additional visits so the children can come into school informally with their peers and familiar adults.

We believe starting school is an important step for the children and encourage them to be happy here and enjoy their learning. This will stand them in good stead for learning in future years.

Freegrounds Junior School

We share a site with Freegrounds Junior School, however, Freegrounds Infants and Freegrounds Juniors are two separate schools. The schools work closely together to ensure as much continuity as possible across the primary phase and a smooth transition from Year 2 to Year 3. Although there is a separate admissions procedure to obtain a space at Freegrounds Junior School their Admissions Policy gives preference to children who have attended Freegrounds Infant School over other children applying for a space in Year 3 who live out of the school's catchment area. As the two schools are really part of a "package" we would suggest you visit Freegrounds Junior School who would be delighted to give you a tour of their school.



The School Day

The classroom doors are open at 8.45am each morning. A member of staff will welcome the children at the door. Any messages for the class teacher can be placed in the tiger bins in Early Years and Year 1 unless they are urgent, in which case they can be given to the class teacher. In Year 2 the children are given more responsibility and place any notes or trip money in the class post bag themselves.

Any children who arrive late for school must be taken to the main entrance so that we can register their arrival. Children who are regularly late miss out on important parts of their education and can disrupt the education of others. Therefore, it is important that your child is at school, every morning, in time for registration.

School times as follows:

Registration 8.50-9am

Morning break: 10.25am to 10.40am

Lunch 12.10pm to 1.10pm

Afternoon breaks are at the discretion of the teacher to best suit the children's learning needs.

School finishes at 3.15pm

The school office is open from 8.30am until 4.00pm each day.

Our Vision and Aims

At Freegrounds Infant School we encourage everyone to develop a strong sense of identity, self-worth and positive emotional wellbeing, with a thirst for learning. We are relentless in the pursuit of the very best outcomes for all our children and committed to establishing strong foundations for our pupil's future success physically, emotionally and academically.

We aim to achieve this through:

- creating a culture of inclusion and respect, valuing the ideas and celebrating the achievement, effort, successes and individuality of everyone
- providing high quality teaching and learning, first hand experiences, high levels of collaboration, challenge and support through a highly personalised and Arts rich curriculum which builds on previous learning, promotes creativity, teaches key skills and creates opportunities for pupils to explore and be curious
- creating an exciting, stimulating, resource rich environment which supports learning through interactive displays, the use of technology and the outdoor environment



- enabling and encouraging everyone to become pragmatic citizens of the local and global community, confident to pursue their own interests, brave to take risks, resilient to overcome difficulties, independent and motivated to learn
- working in close collaboration with each other, parents, outside agencies, schools and the wider community
- providing the knowledge, skills, enthusiasm and opportunities to enable everyone to embrace a healthy lifestyle in terms of self-awareness, self-regulation, emotional wellbeing and physical activity and diet.





Our School Values

At Freegrounds we have a set of Values which underpin the children's spiritual, moral, cultural and social development and learning. As a school we decided what values were important to us and we strongly believe that they are central to good citizenship and lifelong learning:



Independence – learning to work and make decisions on my own, making my own choice to lead my learning



Teamwork – learning to work with others, sharing ideas, respecting the opinions of others



Thinking – processing information, using thinking hats



Motivation – striving to achieve my best



Engagement – show curiosity and explore using our senses



Respect – respect for ourselves and our environment

Our Values underpin the way we at Freegrounds work, behave and treat all members of the school community.

Children collect building bricks when they demonstrate one of our Values which they use to add to the wall in the hall. Once all the bricks have been awarded, the children have earned a whole school reward e.g. dressing up day, extra golden time.

Teaching and Learning

At Freegrounds Infant School the children in Early Years learn predominantly through a hands on child-centred approach which takes into consideration the children's individual interests.

They receive daily teaching of Phonics and whole class teaching of Reading, Writing and Maths in addition to small group and individual teaching sessions. Approximately 85% of the children's learning takes place through Discovery Time where they make choices about where their learning takes place and the skills they wish to apply from the direct teaching sessions. Staff then work with the children to enhance their thinking and learning in their chosen activities. At Freegrounds Infant School we have a large, well-resourced outdoor area which the children have access to throughout the day.

All staff in Early Years are trained to deliver the Balanceability programme to teach children how to ride a two wheeled bicycle without stabilisers. For a number of years now over 95% of our children are able to do this by the end of Early Years.

In Year 1 and Year 2 children are taught Reading, Writing, and Maths daily. In Year 1 and EYFS they are also taught Phonics daily and in Year 2 this progresses to spelling. Teaching in all these core curriculum areas is through the High Quality Inclusive Teaching approach where after daily assessment to establish what the children have achieved and what they need to learn next they are flexibly grouped to ensure their learning is highly personalised and provides them with the opportunities they need to make accelerated progress.

In Years 1 and 2 children are also taught Science, History, Geography, Religious Education, Design Technology, Art, Physical Education, Music, PSHE and Computing. Where possible these are taught through

a topic based approach with regular visits, school trips and hooks to engage the children in their learning and build cross-curricular links.





Pastoral Care

We aim to provide help and support for all children related to aspects of pastoral care. If children are unwell, we contact parents as soon as possible. If children require a change of clothing for whatever reason this is attended to.

When children are poorly, they just want to be at home with their parents. Therefore, it is important that we have up to date contact details for you should we need to contact you in an emergency. If your details change at any point please ensure the office are informed in the first instance to avoid any unnecessary delay in contacting you.

Behaviour

Freegrounds Infant School is a "Rights Respecting School." We believe children have a right to be safe and learn in a happy learning environment. Children are involved in making class charters with rules agreed by all members of the class and they are expected to keep the class rules at all times.

All children are valued as a member of our school community and our Behaviour Policy focuses on celebrating success and achievement whilst also recognising that sometimes mistakes or wrong choices are made but we can learn from them. We understand that sometimes children and families may be experiencing difficulties and that this may impact on children's behaviour. We employ an ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant), and to support in these circumstances we work closely with The Primary Behaviour Service and The Hampshire Educational Psychology Team to ensure pupils receive the guidance and support they need.

We also work closely with parents to secure the best outcomes for children and our Inclusion Manager regularly supports families when behaviour at home may be a concern, or if they are experiencing difficulties with their child.

RE and Collective Reflection

RE is taught in accordance with the County agreed syllabus, "Living Difference IV." This encourages pupils to understand and respond to the key concepts within the major religious traditions and the non-religious beliefs that are represented in Great Britain. Pupils will also have the opportunity to develop their own personal views and values.

Freegrounds Infant School provides opportunities for children to learn about Christianity and Hinduism. Other faiths and cultural and religious festivals may also be explored through topics such as "Our World," in Key Stage One.

An act of worship takes place on a daily basis, and is broadly based on the Christian tradition. Freegrounds Infant School also has regular visitors from local faith groups.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE and Collective Reflection. Please see the Headteacher if you have any concerns. Alternative provision can be arranged if deemed appropriate.



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

At Freegrounds Infant School we promote and nurture children's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development as we believe it is essential for children and young people's individual development, as well as the development of society as a whole.

However, these concepts can be difficult for young children to understand and therefore we have created a set of SMSC characters which are individual to our school. When children are learning about different aspects of SMSC we use the characters to help children learn in a concrete and fun context. Our characters are:

Sasha the Spiritual Spider...

Our spiritual development is having a sense of awe and wonder in our amazing world. We reflect on our own personal beliefs and those of others. This helps us to think about how we can improve things.



Milo the Moral Mole says...

Our moral development is how we learn to understand what is right and wrong. Our class charters help us to do this. In the future this will allow us to understand the actions and viewpoints of others.



Simon the Social Stag Beetle says...

Our social development is how we learn to play, co-operate and work together in a range of different situations. We value teamwork and believe it will help us to become global citizens.



Carla the Cultural Chameleon says...

Our cultural development is finding out about and celebrating how other people live their lives. It helps us to value the things that make our communities different. This teaches us to be respectful of others.



Safeguarding and security for children going home

The school has rigorous policies for Safeguarding and Child Protection. These can be found on our school website.

At the end of each day children are seen out by their teacher through their own classroom doors. The teacher will only allow children to leave the class once they are sure the adult collecting the child has arrived. For safeguarding reasons children will ONLY be allowed to go home with the adults named on the child's "security list." We request these lists on admission to school. Please make sure that your child's list is up to date at all times and notify the school in writing if there is to be a temporary change. (For example a child is going home to tea with another child, or a visiting relative collecting on a particular occasion).

If you are delayed at the end of the day your child will be brought to the office to wait for you. Children can easily become distressed if you are not there when they expect you to be therefore if you know that you will be unavoidably late, please telephone the school office so we can reassure your child that you are on your way.

Equality of Opportunity

It is important that everybody involved with the school is able to enjoy school life and activities free from discrimination and with equality of opportunity. The Governors endeavour to ensure that equality of opportunity is promoted in all activities and is considered in all resources used. The school recognises its duty under the Equality Act not to discriminate against disabled pupils in their admissions and exclusions and provision of education and associated services. Children with disabilities will not be treated less favourably and will have their needs met through a range of strategies and processes.

The school is totally committed to providing equal access to all children to the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, the National Curriculum and to all the school's resources and activities. We employ two Speech and Language Assistants who deliver programmes for children who are being seen by the Speech and Language Service. We also employ an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant.

All children learn at different rates and have different strengths and needs. Children with learning disabilities are admitted in accordance with the school's Admission's Policy. If appropriate, discussions may be held with parents and external agencies at the earliest opportunity to ensure that the necessary provision is in place. The school has a policy of including all pupils and pupils with learning disabilities are not treated less favourably than others.

If you have any concerns about your child's progress, please share them with the class teacher. The school manages Special Educational Needs (SEN) in line with the Code of Practice. A copy our SEN Policy can be found on our school website.



School Grounds

At Freegrounds Infant School we are lucky to have extensive grounds which we use for teaching, learning and recreation. We recognise that it is important to invest in the outdoor environment and we have recently resurfaced our playground and set down new markings, replaced the adventure trail on the field, installed a traversing wall and changed our courtyard into a Sensory Garden.

We recognise the importance of learning outdoors and children regularly enjoy using the pond for Science and Geography work, working in the outdoor classroom and taking a walk through the woodland on the school field.

Curriculum Enrichment

Educational visits to places of interest are organised for the children from time to time during the year to enhance the curriculum. We believe these visits are invaluable to children's learning. Visitors such as a representative from the FairTrade, a local Estate Agent, the Life Education Team, the Fire Safety Team and A Chance to Shine Cricket are invited into the school regularly. These all add breadth and stimulation to the children's learning experiences.

Parents are asked to make voluntary contributions to help cover the costs of these exciting events. The Governors recognise the valuable contribution these activities can make to pupils' personal and social education and that voluntary financial contributions might not always be possible. No child will miss out on an activity because of an inability to pay but some activities may not run at all if not enough contributions are made.

Healthy Snack Time, Milk and Water

We feel it is important for children to have a healthy snack during the morning. This will aid their concentration and ability to learn. Children are provided with a piece of

fruit or vegetable every day as part of the Government's Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. All children up until the age of 5 are entitled to a drink of milk which they have with mid morning snack. Children can continue to have milk once they have turned 5, however, this will need to be paid for by parents.

Water is available at any time for the children in the form of individual water bottles. Please can you provide your child with a named water bottle which they will bring home each day to be washed and refilled.

School lunches

All pupils are entitled to a free school lunch as part of the Government's Universal School Meals agenda. We encourage all families to take this up as it not only provides a nutritional meal for your child but widens the range of food they will eat.

Our school cook and his staff work hard to provide a varied range of meals each day. There are always two options, one being vegetarian. Menus are displayed in the classrooms and copies are available on our website. Children choose each morning which of the two options they would prefer. Should your child require a special diet please let us know as Aspens have a variety of menus which cater for children with allergies, intolerances or children who cannot eat particular food for religious reasons.

Protection from the Sun

At Freegrounds Infant School a lot of our learning takes place outside. Although there are many shaded areas in our school grounds, during the summer months the children may be working in the open.

Parents are advised to apply sun cream or lotion to their children before school. You may wish to provide your children with sun cream or lotion which the children can apply themselves during the day.

School Uniform

Our school uniform has been chosen to help children feel part of the school community, and to enable them to manage independently throughout the school day. Items of uniform are readily available through Skoolkit in Eastleigh and through their website. Please ensure all clothing brought to school is clearly marked with your child's name.

Our uniform is red. Children are expected to wear navy trousers, skirt or pinafore and a white polo shirt. This should be worn with a red school sweatshirt, or cardigan. In summer children may wear red and white summer dresses, or navy shorts.

All footwear should be sensible and comfortable. Heeled shoes are not appropriate for running in the playground. Open toed sandals can be dangerous in the busy environment of school and must be worn with socks. Slip on shoes are likely to slip off. Dark coloured or plain shoes, (not trainers), should be worn every day.

Children need to bring a coat to school each day. During the warmer months a light rain jacket is all that is needed. In winter children DO spend time on the playground and need a warm coat, (preferably one they can do up themselves). When it is wet please send your child to school in wellington boots, (but don't forget a pair of shoes for them to wear when they get here).

For PE children should have red shorts and a plain white t-shirt. They may work barefoot indoors for gymnastics and dance. For our outdoor sessions and games, please ensure your child has a pair of jogging bottoms and a plain sweatshirt with a pair of trainers or plimsols. PE kits should be kept in a named bag and should be in school every day.

If you have difficulty providing your child with essential items of school clothing or footwear, please ask at the school office

as we regularly have good quality items donated to the school office and would be happy for you to look through and help yourself to any should you wish.

Physical Activity

Physical activity is important at Freegrounds Infant School and teachers will sometimes take the opportunity to fit in extra PE sessions during the week. The children also have additional time during lunch and play time to be active, using our school playground, the school field when it is dry and the traversing wall.

Attendance

Attendance at school is very important and at Freegrounds Infant School we believe every lesson counts. Term dates are always available from the school office and on Hampshire County Council's website. Children who miss school miss out on education designed to build foundations for the rest of their lives. It is not always possible to "catch up," on missed activities or experiences. Infant education is an active experience and it is not usually possible for children to be given "extra work," to cover periods of absence. If your child is absent because of illness, or needs to attend a medical appointment, please telephone the school office as soon as possible so that we can record the reason for absence.

If you are considering taking a family holiday during term time please think carefully about the impact this might have on your child's education. There is a form available from the school office for parents to use to request leave of absence for family holidays, however, these will only be agreed for exceptional circumstances. Please request any absence well in advance. Your request will be considered in light of the dates chosen, (if there are special events happening in school we may not be able to authorise holiday absence), your child's attendance to date, (if they have already





missed a lot of school a holiday will probably not help them to make the most of their education), punctuality and any special reasons you can give for requesting holiday leave. We do recognise that some parents are unable to take time away from work during school holidays, and that sometimes important family events fall during term time, however, please do not assume that holidays will be authorised. Please see our website for a copy of our Attendance Policy and clarification regarding special and exceptional circumstances.

Medicines

If it is necessary for a child to complete a course of prescribed medicine in school our administrative staff will be happy to administer it for you. You will need to complete an "Administration of Medicines," form.

If your child suffers from a medical condition which requires regular or frequent medication, (e.g. asthma, diabetes), please discuss any arrangements which need to be made with the Inclusion Manager.

School Nurse

The School Nurse visits the school regularly to monitor the general health of all the children. Individual Health checks with the nurse generally take place in the term after the child's fifth birthday.

Jewellery

No jewellery of any sort should be worn in school unless there are particular religious or cultural reasons. It is unsuitable for school activities and can be dangerous. Children with pierced ears need to wear small studs only. Children will need to have them covered with Micropore tape or remove their earrings for PE. Staff cannot help children to remove or replace ear rings.

Valuables

Children should not bring money or valuables as we cannot take responsibility for any valuable items in school.

Sharing information between home and school

Teachers are always happy to meet with parents, by appointment to discuss individual concerns. School newsletters are published weekly and are sent home via email (Arbor). Every half term in Key Stage 1 we provide you with an overview of the learning taking place. We also provide you with a weekly year group newsletter that outlines learning in Phonics, Writing and Maths in more detail, we also include the weekly home learning activity.

Your child will bring home reading books, (with a reading record for you to comment on their progress). They will also bring home a book mark linked to their Phonics learning for the week.

During the Autumn term we hold parents evenings where you can meet with the class teacher to discuss how your child is settling in to their new class and how their learning is progressing. During this meeting we will share with you your child's next steps in learning and how you can support this at home. We also share their current level of learning in relation to age related expectations. During the Spring term there will be another opportunity to meet with the teacher to discuss their progress so far.

At the end of the Summer term you will receive a written report detailing your child's achievements. In the Early Years Foundation Stage this will include information on the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. Year 1 will receive the results of their Phonics Screening Check. At the end of Year 2 there will be assessment information for your child against National Expectations at the end of the Key Stage 1 Curriculum.



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